

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

May 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage	Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops
<u>NEW MEXICO Southeast</u>								
NMZ027>029		Guadalupe Mountains Of Eddy County - Eddy County Plains - Lea			0	0		Drought
		01 0000CST-						
		31 2359CST						
		See narrative in Texas, Western section.						
Lea County								
Hobbs	24	1905CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Lea County								
Maljamar	24	2040CST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Lea County								
20 WSW Tatum	24	2100CST			0	0		Funnel Cloud
		Rotating wall cloud with funnel reported by Skywam spotters.						
Lea County								
5 W Tatum	24	2107CST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Lea County								
38 WSW Hobbs	25	1255MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Lea County								
12 S Lovington	25	1330MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Lea County								
30 WSW Hobbs	25	1335MST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	1345MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	1410MST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	1445MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
		Two large thunderstorms developed along the dry line in Lea County, NM; the first storm strengthened dropping 3/4 inch hail before crossing the Texas state line into Gaines County. The second storm followed a similar path, but dropped up to golfball size hail.						
Lea County								
Lovington	25	1740MST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Lea County								
Lovington	25	1755MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	2128MST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
		After almost 3 hours of quiet weather in southeast New Mexico, increasing synoptic winds enhanced the convergence along the dry line which fired new storms that dropped up to golfball size hail and caused isolated wind damage.						
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	2131MST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Lea County								
Hobbs	25	2135MST			0	0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind
Lea County								
12 SE Lovington	29	1550MST			0	0		Hail (0.88)
Lea County								
Hobbs	29	1634MST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Lea County								
Hobbs	29	1647MST			0	0		Hail (1.50)
Lea County								
Tatum	29	2259MST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Lea County								
4 W Tatum to	29	2310MST-			0	0		Funnel Cloud
3 W Tatum		2313MST						
		A severe thunderstorm that dropped hail up to 2 inches in diameter formed a brief funnel cloud west of Tatum according to local fire						

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NEW MEXICO Southeast

personnel. The ICMF WSR-88D confirmed strong rotation in the storm, however, the funnel never touched ground.

Lea County
Tatum 29 2315MST 0 0 Hail (2.00)

Thunderstorms formed in the mid afternoon along a stationary front that stretched from west of Hobbs to near Midland to San Angelo. Other storms formed further south along the dry line which extended from the front (approximately in the southeast corner of New Mexico) to the south toward the Rio Grande.

Storms for much of the afternoon were largely of a splitting variety with only a few severe reports. Near the front, the right-splits were dominating, whereas farther south the left-split storms were dominant.

Around 7pm CDT storms were becoming better organized including one storm in Gaines County that dropped baseball size hail. As the evening progressed numerous outflow boundaries were generated that impeded the ability for storms to sustain their organization. Some reports of damaging outflow winds were recorded, but hail size subsided. Also during the evening, stones were no longer splitting--movements were rather chaotic with some storms moving in the mean flow while others followed the criss-crossed outflow boundaries.

Lea County
11 E Tatum 30 1450MST 0 0 Hail (1.75)

TEXAS West

TXZ045>048-050>052-057>063-067>070-074>075-079>082

Games - Dawson - Borden - Scurry - Andrews - Martin - Howard - Van Horn And Salt Flat Basin - Reeves County And Upper Trans Pecos - Loving - Winkler - Ector - Midland - Glasscock - Ward - Crane - Upton - Reagan - Davis Mountain Area - Pecos - Presidio Valley - Maria Plateau - Big Bend Area - Terrell

01 0000CST- 0 0 Drought

31 2359CST

Dry conditions for 1994 and 1995 were starting to take their toll and during the first part of 1996, even drier conditions were felt. From October 1995 through May 1996 not only was it dry, but temperatures and winds were above normal adding to the drying effect. This period was marked as the driest October through May on record at the National Weather Service (NWS) office with only 2.04 inches (72% below average) of precipitation during that time, May 1996 found temperatures common in mid-Summer with the average maximum temperature for the month of 95.6 degrees (9.7 degrees above average). May, usually one of the wetter months, ended with only 0.11 inch (94% below average) at the NWS office.

Burning bans were implemented in many of the cities and counties in the region. During May there were three severe weather events that brought welcome rains, but unwelcomed hail and high winds. The only areas to receive substantial rains were in an area that stretched from central Lea County, NM, eastward Texas into Gaines County, and southeastward into Martin, Howard, Glasscock and Reagan Counties. Most other counties received very little measurable rain. The driest areas stretched from near Midland/Odessa southwestward to the Pecos River. Isolated patches of heavy rains had occurred in Pecos and Terrell Counties.

Complete Agricultural impact and damage estimates will follow in later months.

Brewster County 14 SE Alpine	05	1507CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Scurry County Union	05	1725CST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Scurry County Union	05	1742CST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Borden County 14 E Gail	05	1815CST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Howard County Vincent	05	1833CST			0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (G75)
Scurry County Fluvanna	05	1845CST			0	0		Hail (0.88)
			Nickel size hail covered the ground.					
Howard County Coahoma	05	1919CST			0	0		Hail (0.88)
Scurry County 3 N Union	05	1921CST			0	0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind
			A mobile home was destroyed. No one was home at the time of the event. The roof was blown off and north wall collapsed outward.					

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May 1990

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	
<u>TEXAS West</u>									
Debris was scattered across the property.									
Howard County									
Sand Springs	05	1937CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Howard County									
Coahoma	05	2000CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Howard County									
Coahoma	05	2010CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Howard County									
Coahoma	05	2030CST- 2300CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Widespread flooding was reported in streets and yards. Also the Fire Hall was flooded.									
The weather maps showed a stationary front in the southern Panhandle with the dry line extending southward through the western Permian Basin and into the Big Bend. Storms over much of the region were splitting with the left-movers/northern cells being more powerful. Strong outflows were common with many of the storms that were seen as outflow boundaries that criss-crossed the WSR88D monitor.									
Presidio County									
12 E Marfa	06	1932CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Brewster County									
Alpine	06	2000CST			0	0	20K		Thunderstorm Wind
KVLV radio reported a trailer had been blown over by high winds.									
Presidio County									
Presidio	06	2000CST- 2030CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind
Sustained southerly outflow winds from a thunderstorm complex in Chihuahua caused strong winds from about 6:30 to 10:15 pm CDT. During the strongest winds (9:00 to 9:30 pm) scattered damage occurred around town. The damage included a few roofs (or parts of roofs) being blown off, a few trees knocked down, and power lines blown down that resulted in a two-hour power outage. Blowing dust was very thick during the event reducing the visibility down to 50 feet at times.									
Ector County									
8 WSW Odessa	08	1750CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G57)
Ward County									
5 E Monahans	08	1800CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Ward County									
2 W Pyote	09	1553CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Ward County									
Pyote	09	1601CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Pecos County									
Belding	09	1717CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Pecos County									
9 W Ft Stockton	09	1725CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Gaines County									
Loop	09	1821CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Midland County									
(Maf)Midland Rgnl Ar	09	1825CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
Initial convection developed around 4pm CDT along the dry line located in the western Permian Basin. This convection was multicellular and produced up to 1 inch hail and 60 mph winds. The cluster of storms weakened as it became outflow dominated over Andrews County. New convection fired on the outflow boundary in eastern Gaines County that moved northward into the Lubbock CWA.									
Farther south a multicell cluster that formed over western Pecos County remained very unorganized until around 6pm CDT when the southern cell developed a front-flank reflectivity gradient and began to deviate considerably to the right of the mean flow. This HP supercell eventually propagated straight south and dropped golfball size hail at Belding Farms. The storm quickly weakened as it moved into Brewster County.									

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

May 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed Injured	Estimated Damage Property Crops	Character of Storm
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TEXAS West

Glasscock County 3.5 E Garden City	10	1700CST			0 0		Hail (1.75)
Howard County 7 S Big Spring	10	1713CST			0 0		Hail (1.00)
Upton County 5 S Midkiff	10	1715CST			0 0		Hail (1.75)
Howard County 3 S Big Spring	10	1730CST			0 0		Hail (2.75)
Howard County Big Spring	10	1740CST			0 0		Hail (4.50)
Midland County 24 SSE Midland	10	1740CST			0 0		Hail (1.00)
Howard County 3 E Big Spring	10	1745CST			0 48	30M	Hail (5.00)

A left-split storm moved to the NNE from Glasscock County and produced one inch hail in the Elbow community. The storm reorganized with the storm-relative inflow favoring the north side of the storm. As the storm moved into the Big Spring area the it became a left-split supercell with the velocity display from the KMAF WSR-88D showing a well-developed anti-cyclonically rotating mesocyclone. The storm moved over the eastern half of the city from the south. In southern Big Spring baseball size hail fell while over the northeastern and eastern parts of the city softball size hail was reported. Graduation ceremony was ready to commence when softball hail struck Howard College. Skylights on the coliseum roof were shattered sending glass falling onto the floor that would have been filled with candidates just a few minutes later. The largest hail was reported at the intersection of I-20 and Business I-20 as the storm exited the city to the northeast. A Boy Scout caravan of 5 vehicles was pummelled by 5 inch diameter hail. The hail knocked out every window in every vehicle.

Injuries from the storm included many cuts from broken glass and from direct strikes by jagged hailstones. One hailstone broke the side window of a car and continued with enough force to break a woman's arm inside the car. About 2000 residential roofs were replaced with many of these roofs less than a year old due to the April 3, 1995 hail storm.

The Big Spring storm then moved northeast to the Vincent community where softball hail was once again reported.

Howard County 7 N Coahoma	10	1815CST			0 0		Hail (2.75)
Glasscock County Lees	10	1815CST			0 0		Hail (1.50)
Midland County Spraberry	10	1828CST			0 0		Hail (0.88)
Howard County Vincent	10	1832CST			0 0		Hail (2.75)
Howard County Vincent	10	1837CST			0 0		Hail (4.50)
Mitchell County Westbrook	10	1840CST			0 0		Hail (0.75)
Martin County 5 S Stanton	10	1855CST			0 0		Hail (2.00)
Reagan County 2 E Big Lake	10	1855CST- 1905CST			0 0		Hail (1.00)
Martin County 2 S Stanton	10	1910CST			0 0		Hail (1.75)
Howard County Lomax	10	1915CST			0 0		Hail (1.75)
Pecos County Sheffield	10	2020CST			0 0		Hail (0.88)
Pecos County 3 S Sheffield	10	2041CST			0 0		Hail (1.00)

The opening day of "Twister" coincided with the first day of 1997 with abundant low level moisture in the region. The dry line which

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		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property Damage	Crops	
<u>TEXAS West</u>									
had been against the mountains in the morning had moved eastward and fired storms from Scurry County to just southeast of Midland. A weak surface trough was sagging southward through the area as well, but north of the trough, dew points did not decrease substantially. As a result, splitting storms over the northern part of the area were favoring the left-split storms (e.g. Big Spring), versus storms over the south favoring the right-split storms. The left-split storms were prolific hail machines with no damaging winds, tornadoes, nor flash flooding, but every storm eventually generated baseball size hail or greater.									
Pecos County									
Girvin	13	1550CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
A multicell cluster of storms developed in Central Pecos County and moved eastward. When over northeastern Pecos County, a large section of the cluster collapsed sending 60 mph outflow winds into the Girvin community.									
Martin County									
6 W Stanton	13	1645CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Martin County									
Stanton	13	1655CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Howard County									
6 S Big Spring	13	1745CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Upton County									
Mc Camey	13	1745CST			0	0	20K		Hail
Downburst winds from a collapsing thunderstorm in northern Pecos County blew the roof off a car wash that landed on two mobile homes and two vehicles, causing extensive damage to one of the homes.									
Howard County									
19 NE Big Spring	13	1800CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Scurry County									
Ira	13	1818CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Mitchell County									
Spade	13	1820CST	0.1	80	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Scurry County									
5 NW Snyder	13	1840CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Mitchell County									
Colorado City	13	1845CST	0.1	75	0	0			Tornado (F0)
A multicell cluster of thunderstorms developed over the city of Midland and moved to the northeast. The cluster moved rapidly to the northeast at 40 mph, developing a reflectivity gradient on the leading edge. Stanton received hail, but as the storms continued northeast a section collapsed sending 60 mph outflow into Big Spring. From this outflow additional clusters developed in northeastern Howard County that dropped hail from there and to the northeast in Scurry County.									
Pecos County									
2 N Ft Stockton	14	0045CST- 0117CST			0	0	20K		Thunderstorm Wind
Outflow winds from thunderstorms blew roofs off 2 mobile homes and knocked down a few power poles.									
Pecos County									
5 N Ft Stockton	22	1555CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Upton County									
15 NW Rankin	22	1602CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Large tree branches broken by winds.									
Gaines County									
2 S Seminole	25	1535CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Gaines County									
12 SW Seminole	25	1538CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Gaines County									
Seminole	25	1540CST			0	0	120K		Thunderstorm Wind
Damaging downburst winds from a severe thunderstorm destroyed a very large storage building owned by the First Baptist Church in Seminole. The building formerly was used by a lumber yard and was built of wood with a corrugated metal exterior. Most of the building collapsed resulting in damaged property inside the building including 4 vehicles and other assorted property of the church. Debris from the church blew across the street knocking out windows in a TV/video store.									
Gaines County									
6 S Loop	25	1620CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Two strong storms were moving through Gaines County, with this storm about to exit into Terry County (LBB CWA), and the other storm becoming the HP Supercell that dropped the tornado near Welch.									
Gaines County									
6 S Loop	25	1620CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)

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		Time Local/	Path Length	Path Width	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		May 1990
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<u>TEXAS West</u>									
Gaines County Loop	25	1700CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
		Wind gusts to 50 mph occurred also.							
Gaines County Loop	25	1715CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Gaines County 7 E Loop	25	1720CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G57)
		The thunderstorm that had dropped up to golfball size hail in Lea County, NM moved northeast into Gaines County, TX and continued to organize. As the storm moved northeast out of Seminole it became an HP Supercell and began to turn to the right moving from about 260 degrees.							
Dawson County 3 W Welch	25	1730CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Dawson County 4 S Welch	25	1741CST- 1745CST	0.5	100	0	0			Tornado (F1)
		After the Supercell moved into northwestern Dawson County, a tornado formed 4 miles south of Welch near the intersection of FM 829 and FM 1066. The tornado was wrapped in rain and was difficult to see according to the spotter that saw it. The spotter quickly lost sight of the tornado as the curtain of rain thickened, thereby blocking the view.							
Dawson County 2 N Punkin Center	25	1745CST			0	0			Hail (2.75)
Dawson County 10 N Lamesa	25	1800CST			0	0			Hail (2.00)
Dawson County 11 NNE Lamesa	25	1812CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Dawson County 13 NE Lamesa	25	1812CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
		The HP supercell that spawned the tomado near Welch also dropped up to baseball size hail as it moved to the east. Very strong synoptic winds were howling into the storm that raised thick dust thereby making spotting the storm difficult. An AFOS graphic map depicting geostrophic wind showed 70 knot southeast winds in the vicinity of the storm; the peak wind at MAF was from the southeast at 44 mph. The storm then tracked through open country in extreme northern Borden County and eventually crossed into the LBB CWA into Garza County.							
		For a severe weather season that was characterized as having weak upperflow, this day was an exeption. An approaching upper low near Las Vegas, NV had a strengthening southwesterly mid and upperflow over southwest Texas. During the event the 8000 ft (MSL) south-southwest winds on the WSR-88D VAD Wind Profile indicated an increase from 20 kt at 19Z to 40 kt by 23Z.							
Pecos County 3 S Ft Stockton	29	1515CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Mitchell County Colorado City	29	1825CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Gaines County 9 S Seminole	29	1830CST			0	0			Hail (2.75)
Martin County 1 W Tarzan	29	1832CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Glasscock County St Lawrence	29	1844CST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G70)
		Winds estimated at 80 mph in St. Lawrence blew a trampoline on top of a carport, blew the roof off a barn, and damaged the roof of a house.							
Reagan County 26 NNE Big Lake	29	1845CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Glasscock County St Lawrence	29	1950CST- 2200CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Glasscock County 5 N Garden City	29	2044CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
		See New Mexico, Southeast for narrative.							

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<u>TEXAS West</u>										
Pecos County Ft Stockton Arpt Fst	30	1613CST			0	0	60K			Thunderstorm Wind (G73)
An HP Supercell approached Fort Stockton with the meso-cyclone staying north of town but the apex of a bow echo, on the south side of the circulation, aiming eastward along I-10.										
The ASOS at the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton was struck by outflow winds from the bow echo. The observations were very interesting starting with 2205 UTC ob that reported a temperature of 90 degrees with 1 mile visibility due to blowing dust, and the winds from the southwest at 40 gusting to 57 kt. By 2212 UTC the temperature had dropped to 69 degrees the wind was from the northwest at 50 gusting to 65 kt, and the visibility <1/4 mile in heavy rain. By the 2219 UTC observation the temperature had dropped to 63 degrees, the wind was from the northwest at 37 gusting to 73 kt. (The 73 knot wind gust was recorded at 2313 UTC.)										
Damage was reported across the north side of Fort Stockton. Three hangars were damaged at the airport, 20 pine tree were blown over at the golf course, windshields were blown out in the Civic Center parking lot, shingles were peeled up on roofs, and windows broken out at homes and a few businesses. Power was knocked out for up to 2 1/2 hours in some parts of town. Another anemometer at the airport recorded an 87 mph gust.										
Terrell County Northern Half	31	0020CST- 0400CST			0	0				Flash Flood
Widespread flash flooding was reported over the northern half of the county with State Highway 349 north of Dryden being closed. Ranch Road 2400 between U.S. Highway 285 and State Highway 349 was closed as well.										